

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/8/06

SPONSOR Salazar LAST UPDATED _____ HB 665

SHORT TITLE Acequia Commission Operations SB _____

ANALYST Lewis

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	130.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB 706 (Acequia Restoration & Rehabilitation Fund)

Relates to HJM 65/SJM 68 (Importance of Acequia Culture)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Office of the State Engineer and Interstate Stream Commission (OSE/ISC)

Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 665 appropriates \$130,000 from the general fund to the Acequia Commission to pay for operations of the commission.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$130,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA), the Acequia Commission, a body appointed by the Governor to serve the interests of the hundreds of acequias operating around the state, has found the need to hire consultants to increase its effectiveness in advising both the Governor and the Legislature on acequia-related matters, as well as advocating on behalf of the acequias themselves.

The DFA notes that the Legislature appropriated \$42,000 for the current fiscal year.

The Office of the State Engineer and Interstate Stream Commission (OSE/ISC) notes that the Acequia Commission was created under New Mexico statute 73-2-65 with 11 Members, each of whom “shall own land irrigated from an acequia or community ditch organized pursuant to a ditch or acequia statute.”

The statute requires that the Acequia Commission shall:

- A. provide advice and assist the Governor, Legislature, Office of the State Engineer and Interstate Stream Commission and the United States Army Corps of Engineers in establishing acequia and community ditch rehabilitation priorities and other acequia and community ditch matters;
- B. serve as a facilitator for communication between acequia and community ditch associations and state and federal agencies; and
- C. review and comment on any plan or legislation affecting acequias or community ditches to the Governor, the Legislature, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Interstate Stream Commission.

ML/nt